

CLAIMS:

1. A video message system, comprising:

a video display (115), having a fixed position, for playing back a video portion

5 of a video message from a user;

a frame (105) for framing said video display; and

at least one video camera (110) disposed on said frame, and oriented in a same direction as said video display, for capturing video data of the user for inclusion in the video portion of the video message.

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2. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising:

a microphone (120) for capturing audio data from the user for inclusion in an audio portion of the video message; and

15 at least one speaker (125) for playing back the audio portion of the video message.

3. The video message system of claim 2, further comprising a synchronization device (190) for providing synchronization data for synchronizing the playback of the audio portion with the playback of the video portion.

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4. The video message system of claim 1, wherein said video display (115) is further for displaying information corresponding to at least one of the recording and the playing back of the video message.

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5. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a memory device (135), disposed with said frame, for storing the video message.

6. The video message system of claim 5, wherein said memory device is (135) capable of being dynamically updated.

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7. The video message system of claim 1, wherein said frame (105) is a picture-type frame.

8. The video message system of claim 7, wherein said frame (105) comprises a plurality of bezels, at least one of said bezels for having said video display disposed thereon.

- 5 9. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising:
 a microphone (120) for capturing audio data from the user for inclusion in an
 audio portion of the video message; and
 at least one speaker (125) for playing back the audio portion of the video
 message,
10 wherein said frame (105) comprises a plurality of bezels, at least one of said
 bezels for having said video display and said microphone disposed thereon.

15 10. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising an
 encryption/decryption device (197) for encrypting and decrypting the video
 message.

11. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising:
 a user input device (165) for receiving a pre-designated message retrieval
 code from a user; and
20 a password manager (198) for blocking access to the message until the pre-
 designated message retrieval code provided by the user is verified.

12. The video message system of claim 11, further comprising an
 encryption/decryption device (197) for encrypting and decrypting the video
15 message.

13. The video message system of claim 11, further comprising a delay
 module for receiving a delay input that delays a notification of the video message
 until a specified time.

14. The video message system of claim 13, wherein the specified time
 corresponds to a known time period when children are remote from the video
 message system.

15. The video message system of claim 1, wherein said at least one camera comprises at least two camera for captured stereoscopic video data of the user.

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16. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a processor for graphically generating a visual kaleidoscope for display on said display device.

10 17. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising:
a memory device (135) for storing a plurality of visual fortune cookies; and
a processor (130) for randomly selecting a visual fortune cookie from among
the plurality of visual fortune cookies for display on said display device.

15 18. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a daily scheduler.

20 19. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a visual casino slot machine that is displayed on said display device.

25 20. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a remote control device (152) for controlling functions of the video message system.

21. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a telephone feature for placing and receiving telephone calls.

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22. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a message indicator (185) for indicating an existence of unplayed video messages.

23. The video message system of claim 22, wherein said message indicator (185) is further for indicating an existence of saved video messages that have been already played back at least once.

24. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising an external bus (180) for at least one of connecting to an external device to retrieve the video message there from or to receive remote instructions for retrieving the video message.

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25. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a delay module for receiving a delay input that delays a notification of the video message until a specified time.

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26. The video message system of claim 25, further comprising an external connector (180) for receiving the delay input from a remote location with respect to a location of the video message system.

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27. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a timer (195) for time-stamping messages as they are recorded.

28. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a timer (195) for specifying a time amount remaining for recording the video message.

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29. The video message system of claim 1, further comprising a timer (195) for specifying a time amount remaining of a current playback of the video message.